

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1913

Beholding the bright countenance of truth in the quiet and still air of delightful studies.—Milton.

"LACK OF CONFIDENCE"

While the Democratic county committee is voting a "lack of confidence" in Supervisors Petrie, McCallan and Markham, the rest of the community is voting confidence in them.

It is quite natural for the violently-partisan county committee to insist on Democrats for all municipal offices. Only by this kind of work can the county committee keep up its political system,—the system relied upon to carry another election. The county committee is in the fence-building business, and of course it wants to build up just as strong a fence as possible.

But this is not at all the point of view of the community in general. What the city demands is office-holders named on their merits, not on their political records. If the Democratic county machine leaders can put Democrats in office who are just as efficient as the Republicans they are trying to put out, the public would not quarrel with their methods. But the actions of the county committee during the past month have not been such as to breed confidence in its judgment of efficiency.

It was proposed to put a capable fire-chief out of office and name a Democrat who has shown no qualifications whatever for the position.

It was proposed to put a capable building inspector out of office and put in a young man whose appointment would be, at the most, a matter of experiment.

It was proposed to put a capable electrician out of office and put in a political creditor of the party whose ability is not a matter of unanimous opinion, to say the least.

As to the case of the city engineer, the question there was the wisdom of swapping horses in the middle of a stream, a feat that sometimes succeeds but more often leads to mishap. City Engineer Whitelouse's ability is known; George F. Whittemore, the Democrat backed by G. J. Waller and others, has made a fine record both in private work and as a member of the United States engineering corps. Whether he could confront and solve the peculiar problems of this city and county is the question over which honest differences of opinion arose. At any rate, Whitehouse has made good in-office, the other man would be an experiment, and the supervisors now under fire preferred to stand by a man of known merit and local experience.

In the majority of cases where the Democratic county committee has tried to force the supervisors to partisan action, its judgment has at least been questionable.

Therefore, the vote of "lack of confidence" of the county committee will not be participated in by the majority of the citizens. The majority, if a poll could be taken, would come overwhelmingly to the support of the Democratic supervisors who have the courage to stand for efficiency against extreme use of the spoils system.

FARMERS GETTING DOWN TO SYSTEM

Homesteaders and small farmers of the territory are coming closer and closer to the problem of controlling their own distribution as well as their own production. On this principle such great private businesses as those of the Armour Packing Company and the Standard Oil Company have been built. The financiers behind the businesses saw the wisdom of eliminating the middleman. Now all over the country, farmers are combining in associations of various kinds with the object of handling their products from the time soil is broken until the checks for the sales pass through the banks.

A notable development of this principle is to be found in the organization of fruit-growers of Wenatchee, in the eastern part of the state of Washington. This section, rapidly coming to the front as the greatest apple-producing country in the world, has had its troubles with middlemen, but finally the formation of a "pool" among the producers allowed the growers to get the maximum of profit from their work.

The story of how this was accomplished is inspiring. Hawaii, of course, has not the same conditions in the way of many markets in big cities, rail-hauls and competition with associations of middlemen, but the underlying principle, that of controlling distribution as well as production, is the same. In a recent address before the Wenatchee Commercial club, the president of the growers' association, W. T. Clark, told how the system has been built up:

Having obtained something tangible to sell, Clark decided upon a "system" which he would try to establish. His first step was to go direct to St. Paul and lay before James J. Hill an outline of the plan.

The master railroad and empire builder was quick to see the value of the scheme. He readily consented to give a letter to Mr. Van Veatchton, president of the largest bank in Chicago, with resources aggregating \$250,000,000. The big financier was requested by the railroad magnate to lend every possible assistance to the Wenatchee Valley Fruit Growers' Association. Then things happened in quick succession.

Clark went to Chicago, told the bank his plan, asked for letters to leading banks in principal cities of the east. Armed with these, he and Manager Corburn, accompanied by Directors Grant Paton and Harry Shotwell, proceeded to establish a selling system. Each local banker was asked to name the most reliable wholesaler of fruits and groceries in his city. In every instance the local bank agreed to advance money to this local agent, so great was the confidence reposed in the agent selected by the association.

Twenty of these agents in as many large cities of the east were secured. Each of them agreed to handle a specified number of carloads. More agents could have been named, but the pool of 1,700 carloads was subscribed by these twenty. The association has no more fruit to sell, but could have handled double the amount received.

Arrangements for storage were made in Duluth, Kansas City and St. Louis chiefly, the idea being to store the apples on this side of the consumer in order to take advantage of the storage in transit privilege and deliver a carload of apples anywhere in the United States on twenty-four hours' notice, direct from cold storage, and on a through rate from Wenatchee.

Agents are allowed 10 cents per box without reference to sale prices. This amount, added to the 5 cents allowed for association expense in assembling the fruit and supervising its distribution, making 15 cents in all, is the total expense between the grower and the retailer. In other words, 15 cents and the retailer's profit compose the whole amount which must be added to the producer's price in order to determine what the consumer must pay for a Wenatchee apple.

Association directors alone have the power to fix the wholesale prices. The management receives daily reports from its agents and they advise what prices will get best returns, but they get exactly the same profit, 10 cents per box, no matter what the sale price. They have nothing invested. Their only direct interest is to sell as much fruit as possible.

This plan defers the date of settlement for the grower, but it is the key to the proposition. Final settlement is not possible for the grower until spring, although he has received 10 cents per box above expenses thus far, but the management is thus in command of the situation at all times.

NORRIS OPPOSED FOR INTERIOR PORTFOLIO

As the Star-Bulletin predicted some time ago, the increasingly bitter fight for the secretaryship of the interior under Wilson has caused many of the wise political heads among the Democrats to talk of retaining Secretary Fisher. Gov. Norris of Montana is the latest to feel the effects of the opposition in his own party. A few days ago Norris visited Wilson and immediately all the host of unofficial cabinet-makers picked Norris as a likely choice for the interior portfolio. Then the easterners and southerners broke loose with charges that Norris is decidedly too friendly with the great amalgamated copper political machine of Montana. Whereupon a Washington correspondent sent this out over the wires:

"In this connection there is a considerable movement in favor of the retention of Secretary Walter L. Fisher. It is, of course, entirely non-partisan in character, but is backed by a good many persons who supported Wilson in his campaign.

"One of the movers in the Fisher campaign said today that he did not understand that Secretary Fisher was even informed as to what was being done. He was certain, in any case, that Fisher had no responsibility whatever for the campaign."

Gilbert J. Waller is indorsed for governor by the Democratic county committee. Members of the committee are careful to announce simultaneously that they will indorse any good Democrat.

After the terrific blow dealt the supervisors by the county committee last night, there must have been a deal of surprise to find the city government still doing business at the old stand today.

Richard H. Trent declares he is not a candidate for governor. That, however, will not head off the rumors that several leading Hawaiian businessmen think a good deal of him.

"Elimination of Pests Goes On" is the encouraging headline in the morning paper. Unfortunately the story refers merely to mosquitoes.

The London Bar Association has refused to admit women to practise. Portia wouldn't have stood much show with this aggregation.

Old Doc's Talk

VISITING RELATIONS

My boy, if you want to keep the affection of all your solicited relatives back East who think so much of you, who love you for your sterling, manly qualities, and send you messages of approval because you are worthy,—if you want to keep these uncles, aunts and cousins loving, just go on being an independent, self-supporting young man. For the minute you don't you'll get a jar which may result in railroad spine, and place you under the painful necessity of asking for a few dollars of the money you have been paying the accident insurance company for the last ten years.

Just try it and see! Call on your uncle in New York, look rather seedy, and ask him for the loan of \$100 for six months, interest at 10% payable quarterly; then see his countenance lower, notice the temperature in the vicinity take a tumble, observe how all the tender buds of affection are suddenly nipped by frost, remember the sound of your innocent, unsophisticated, congealed tears falling with a crystalline tinkle to the floor. Ah, my son, it's sad, but it's all sure to happen.

If you haven't money when you go visiting your dad's aristocratic connections in Boston, turn back before you start, my son,—at any rate, don't get any farther than St. Louis.

If you can't appear as a success in life, with all the clothes society demands, and money to jingle in your pocket, stay away, my son, I beg of you to stay away. It will be best. If you don't you will live to regret your foolhardiness and say with the prophet of old:

"Stay West—that's best
Unless
You've got plenty of jingle under your vest!"

E. S. Goodhue

LETTERS ON TIMELY TOPICS

[The Star-Bulletin invites free and frank discussion in this column on all legitimate subjects of current interest. Communications are constantly received to which no signature is attached. This paper will treat as confidential signatures to letters if the writers so desire, but cannot give space to anonymous communications.]

TAG DAY PROCEEDS

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.
Sir:—In the present controversy about the King's Daughters' Home did it ever occur to the ladies that a home given on "Tag Day" was for a home at KAIMUKI—not for the Allen property? If they take the Allen property, they have received money under false pretenses.

Furthermore, I hear on very good authority that the Allen house is rotten, and full of the wood-borer.

CHRIST AND FLOGGING.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.
Sir:—In your issue of Jan. 13th appears an unsigned letter in which reference is made to the "flogging" by Jesus of the desecrators of the temple in Jerusalem. Hence, the writer infers, "greater crimes in modern times" should not be treated "less heroically." But the deduction, if meant seriously (I imagine it was stated only to draw some of us out), is so unwarranted and illogical that it deserves attention.

Setting aside the doubtful value of the record in which this statement is found (St. John's Gospel), we may well enquire whether this castigating of the money-changers was consistent with the attitude assumed by Christ throughout his life towards evil-doers, and with his own gentle acts on so many occasions, when offenders severely condemned by others, came to him for appeal.

"Resist not him that is evil," we are told elsewhere, "but whosoever smiteth thee on the right cheek turn to him the other side also." Judge not that ye be not judged," are only two of many hundreds of sayings which interpret the spirit of Jesus' doctrine of peace, patience, forbearance, non-resistance. In many, many instances recorded, the sweet character and temperament of Jesus are shown, rendering good for evil, turning away the angry word by a soft answer. We are told by an exponent of Christ's message that the "fruit of the spirit is LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONG-SUFFERING, KINDNESS, FORBEARANCE, FAITHFULNESS, MEEKNESS, SELF-CONTROL."

But this day, close to Passover, full of the heroism of his great sacrifice and of the sacredness of God's sanctuary; tried by vexatious cares, and perhaps himself not in the best physical health, he comes to the temple and finds the Jews engaged in buying and selling, carrying on the petty trades he saw so much of outside. Without a moment's thought of his position or message, he loses his temper, makes a "scourge of cords," casts out the sheep and oxen in no gentle manner let us be sure, pours out the money (much in the way earnest reformers have emptied whiskey casks that did not belong to them), and overthrows the tables.

He did just as any angry man

whose sense of the proprieties is outraged. That and nothing more. It was undignified and unChristlike. It was one of the acts which happen so much more frequently in the lives of other men, when a man fails to live up to his standards. This exhibition was not intended to be embodied in a precept, or made the basis for example. It was a nerve-storm quite human and accountable. We have all done worse with less provocation. Some word or act on the part of another, unwarrantable perhaps, has so offended us that we have slapped the offender on the mouth, or given him a pummeling.

After it, when calmness came and a chance for reflection, we realized that we had suffered a lapse of dignity and influence; that the incident did not fit in with our theories and preachments; but the act was spontaneous and human, and, in some sense, indicative of the predominance of right-feeling in the human breast.

I saw Sir Wilfrid Laurier in a court room slap an attorney over the mouth because the latter made an uncalled-for nasty remark regarding Mr. Laurier's family life. The impulse came like a flash, and surprised everybody. Mr. Laurier, the gentle, suave, patient, kind! So it was with Jesus, and while his indignation was well founded, what he did was not worthy of him. Though often pleading and plucky, no act of retaliation of this sort is best? The better way is Jesus' ordinary way. His unusual act was inconsistent with his beautiful precepts, and his ideal life-standard.

If anything would convince one of the humanity of Jesus, such very human weaknesses should.

But for any logical mind to compare such a manifest impulse, such a spontaneous burst of human temper, to the regulated, systematic flogging of men for specified offenses against society, is highly ridiculous, to say the least.

As an offense in itself, that of the Jews was (in view of their character and traditions) really a small one; not a crime at all, and Jesus' punishment thereof was unpremeditated and impulsive. If we are going to have reasons from anybody for the establishment of the whipping-post in Hawaii, I trust that they may be better than this example set up by our anonymous writer.

E. S. GOODHUE, M. D.
Honolulu, Jan. 14, 1913.

CREDIT TO BISHOP MUSEUM

Honolulu, Jan. 17, 1913.
Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.
Sir:—In your notice of my study of Hawaiian snails in the Star-Bulletin of Jan. 17th I note an omission which would be trivial were it not that due credit is not given to a Hawaiian institution. My studies on Hawaiian snails and the geological history of the islands had been carried as far as was practicable to me as an outsider when the authorities of the Bishop Museum invited me to visit the islands so that the conditions could be studied on the spot, and also that advantage might be taken of the great collections in the museum. It was thought that by free interchange of views with Dr. C. Montague Cooke of museum staff and other Hawaiian experts the value of my volume upon Hawaiian snails would be greatly enhanced.

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It is therefore to the enterprise of the Bishop Museum that we are indebted for this extension of scientific investigation.

Incidentally, I may be allowed to say that while the study under consideration is based upon snails, the results have a far wider scope. They bear upon the origin of these islands in the remote past, and their development up to the present time.

Very truly,
H. A. PILSBRY.

Photo-Engraving of highest grade can be secured from the Star-Bulletin Photo-Engraving Plant.

PERSONALITIES

FIRST LIEUT. CHAS. C. DREMER, medical corps, Schofield Barracks, has been transferred to Fort Shafter, to fill, for the time being, the position of post surgeon.

MISS IDA LEE DUNCAN, of Washington, D. C., a normal school lecturer who has been touring the world the last two or three years collecting data, has come to Hawaii, to conduct studies here during the next month. During a visit at the office of the governor Friday morning she declared that nowhere had she found a climate comparable to that of Honolulu.

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